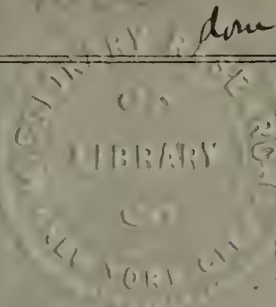


EAST
AFRICA

East.

Lindsey, L.



Remarks

ON

THE OPENING OF TRADE

AND

CULTIVATION OF TROPICAL PRODUCTS

IN THE

KINGDOM OF USAMBARA,

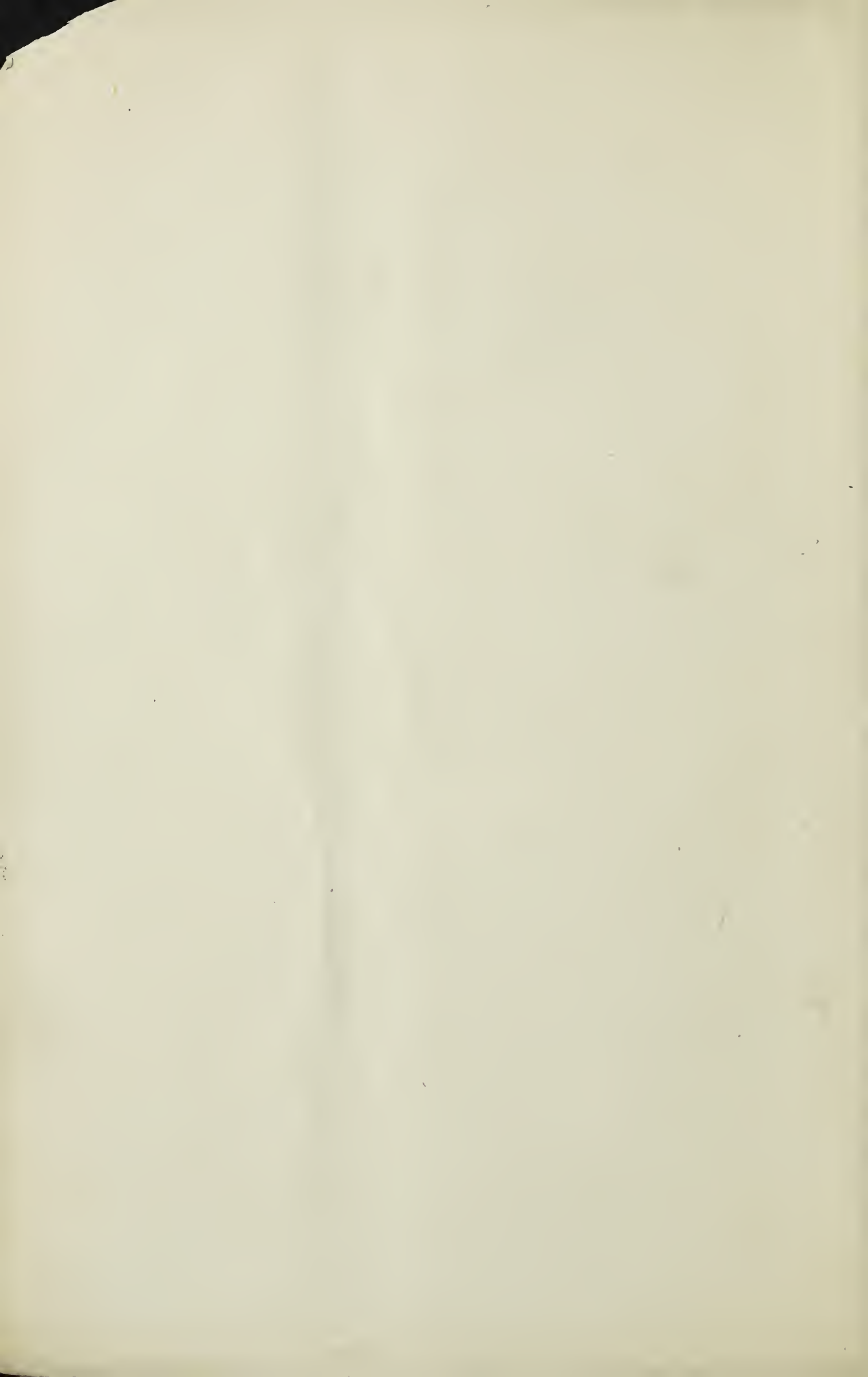
EAST AFRICA.



EAST AFRICA.

REMARKS

Relating to the formation of a large Planting Enterprise on the healthy mountain ranges of Usambara, on the East Coast of Africa, and the establishment of a European Settlement in connection therewith, as the surest and most practicable means of promoting Trade in those parts, and carrying Civilisation into the populous countries of Central Africa by the most direct and least difficult route, viz., from Tanga Harbour on the Indian Ocean, to Speke Gulf on the south of the Great Victoria Lake (Victoria N'yanza), passing through Usambara, and through the open pastoral countries of Para, Masai, and thickly-peopled Usukuma. The distance from point to point, as the crow flies, being about 440 statute miles.



EAST AFRICA.

PART I.

PROPOSAL TO SEND A DELEGATION TO H.H. THE SULTAN OF ZANZIBAR TO SOLICIT CERTAIN CONCESSIONS AND PRIVILEGES.

A draft Prospectus, entitled "The East Africa Syndicate," printed in December, 1883, proposed a scheme for a large planting enterprise on the mountain ranges of Usambara, near the sea coast of East Africa, almost opposite to the Island of Zanzibar, for the cultivation, under European management, of coffee, tea, cocoa, and other tropical products, which will not only yield very handsome profits, but be the means, by the very fact of its necessitating a considerable resident European staff, of pushing trade, which is the forerunner of civilisation, into that country, and through it into the interior of Africa.

The mountains of Usambara commence at not more than 25 miles from the sea, for 15 miles of which there is good water carriage by the Zigi, a fine river which discharges into the harbour of Tanga, perhaps the finest harbour on the East Coast of Africa, which, with a considerable extent of country between it and Usambara, belongs to His Highness The Sultan of Zanzibar.

These mountains range to an elevation of over 5,000 feet above the sea, thus affording a climate well adapted to Europeans, and in every respect suitable for the successful growing of the above-named and many other tropical products.

The Universities' Mission have a large station at Magila, in Usambara (established in 1867), of which the Venerable Arch-deacon Farler is the chief, and in testimony of his approval of the scheme of the prospectus the following letter is referred to:—

“ Pampisford Vicarage, Cambridge,
2nd January, 1884.

“ My dear Sir,—I thank you for the copy of the Prospectus of the ‘ East Africa Syndicate,’ which you have sent to me.

“ I shall be quite willing to give my support and influence to such a scheme, on the condition that every care shall be taken not to interfere in any way with the growing Christianity of the people of Usambara, either by bad example or by ignoring the claims of religion on the part of any of the employés of the Company; also that the introduction or sale of spirits shall be strictly prohibited.

“ Knowing as I do the great capabilities of Usambara, such a scheme as you propose ought not only to benefit the Shareholders in a pecuniary sense, but also to elevate and civilise the natives of the country.

“ I ask you for these guarantees, for I shall have to satisfy the native chiefs of the *bonâ fides* of the Company, and that its introduction will bring neither loss nor trouble upon them or their people.

“ Satisfied on these points, I will give you every assistance by introductions to the native chiefs, by advising them to sell you land, and by pledging myself that your coming will be for their benefit and for the benefit of their people.

“ Believe me, yours very faithfully,

“ (Signed) J. P. FARLER,

“ Archdeacon of Magila, in Usambara.

“ To David B. Lindsay, Esq.”

The first step towards carrying out such a scheme is to solicit the permission and support of His Highness The Sultan together with certain concessions, and to obtain the goodwill and approval of Sir John Kirk, H.B.M. Political Agent at Zanzibar. With this view it is proposed to send a special delegation to Zanzibar, and, if successful, to subsequently explore Usambara, to test the practicability of purchasing suitable lands there, and the means of access to them, &c.

It is estimated that the cost of such mission will not exceed £1000, subscriptions to which are proposed to be raised by a Syndicate formed by the holders of Shares of £10 each, such Shares being registered with limited liability.

I bring forward the following reasons for believing that His Highness the Sultan will regard the scheme with favor, provided that a company be hereafter formed with sufficient capital to carry it out, and that the goodwill of Sir John Kirk be solicited in the name of gentlemen of recognized position:—

First.—The antecedents of the Sultan show him to be well disposed to favor, and indeed it may be said to aid, any sound scheme of improvement, and all the more, as may be surmised, if such scheme should hold out prospects of increasing the revenues of his country.

Thus Stanley writes in the second chapter of his “Through the Dark Continent” :—

“To a company, however, which can raise the sum required to construct a Tramway, East Africa holds out special advantages. The Sultan himself offers the handsome sum of five lakhs of dollars, or roughly £100,000.”

Second.—By the proposed scheme the Sultan's revenue cannot fail to benefit very largely, for the port or ports connected with the undertaking, being within His Highness' territory, would of course levy customs dues which must soon swell to a large amount—and to an amount far exceeding any present idea—when communication shall be open by rail with the great lake, Victoria N'yanza, an event which is probably only a question of time.

Third.—Such increase of revenue, immediate and prospective, would be all the more appreciated by His Highness, as it would spring from entirely new sources, and would not be derived, or at least not to any appreciable extent, from trade at present existing, and passing through and yielding revenue at any other ports, or ever likely to do so.

Fourth.—It may be reasonably assumed that any project such as this, the promoters of which shall have been well introduced to him—and holding out as it does the prospect of largely increasing the Sultan's revenue, without any outlay, or loss of territory or prestige on his part—will obtain the goodwill of Sir John Kirk.

It is submitted that this scheme will recommend itself to the public as well on the ground of profit as of philanthropy, as specially commented on in Part II. and Part III. respectively.

PART II.

PROFITS TO BE DERIVED FROM LAND PURCHASED AND PLANTING ENTERPRISE IN USAMBARA.

AS REGARDS PROFIT.

It would not be possible under present circumstances to name a limit to the extent of Forest Lands which may be acquired in Usambara, and in the countries north of it, suitable for planting purposes and for European life, but as Usambara alone contains something like *five* million acres of land, and it is known that great wastes of forests extend far to the north of it, it may be fairly assumed that at least one million acres of available land may be bought from the King and Chiefs in fee simple, and apart from the large profits eventually to be derived by the cultivation of coffee,* tea, cocoa, and such like products and the

* Grant mentions coffee as being cultivated, in considerable quantities, for a spirit distilled from the unripe berries, at and about the equator, at 4,000 feet above sea-level, also at Karagwe $1^{\circ} 40''$ south latitude, where Cameron likewise saw it, and mentions it as indigenons.

Sir Samuel Baker, on his journey from the Nile towards Victoria N'yanza, when in about $1^{\circ} 50''$ north latitude, writes, "Yesterday the natives brought coffee in small quantities to sell. It is a small and finely-shaped grain, with a good flavour. * * * It is brought from the country of Utumbi." Utumbi is situate about 1° north latitude, extending from Karagwe northwards. Baker also mentions having seen coffee growing wild in forests near Albert N'yanza.

Archdeacon Farler states that he has occasionally received coffee grown in villages of Usambara, and samples of Coffee and Sugar grown on the high lands south-east of Nyassa N'yanza, in Central Africa, recently sent by the Rev. Horace Waller to Messrs. Patry & Pasteur, the well-known brokers, are reported on by them as follows:—"Both samples are remarkably good of their kind, and of qualities which are very current and would always find a ready sale in London, supposing there was a regular supply of them. Both reflect much credit on those who, in that distant land, have succeeded in growing, and especially in preparing, both the Coffee and Sugar for the market. The Coffee particularly is remarkable for the depth and brightness

more immediate profits by trading and availing of the present natural products of the country such as india-rubber and timber, very large and speedy returns will be obtained by sales of land for planting purposes, to small capitalists, who will assuredly flock to the place, as they did to Ceylon in 1840, so soon as it can be shown that land can be bought, and that the products above named can be profitably grown and easily shipped, with all the elements of reasonable safety and security, which will be remarked on further on (Part III).

THE FOLLOWING IS WHAT OCCURRED IN CEYLON.

In 1831 the first cart road to the interior (Colombo to Kandy) was opened.

In 1833 Sir Edward Barnes commenced the first regular coffee plantation. In 1835 two other plantations were started. In 1837 several others were commenced, and so soon as the news of their success had filtered to this country (then a four months' journey), planters flocked to the Island, so that by 1840 a perfect rush for land had set in.

The records of the Government Land sales show that :—

From 1833 to 1843 there were sold 267,373 acres, for £142,758 ; to a great extent between 1840 and 1843.

From 1833 to 1879 there were sold 1,145,467 acres, for £1,806,503, of which it has been computed that two-thirds were sold to Europeans for coffee and cocoa-nut plantations.

The export of coffee increased from 16,000 cwts. in 1830, to 1,013,904 cwts. in 1870.

The area of land planted with coffee by European planters is stated to have been 220,000 acres in 1878, employing 380,000 coolies, and superintended by fully 1,000 Europeans.

It would be rash to fix a limit to the extent of land in Usambara, which may be obtained by a company and sold to planters, who would settle on the hills as they have done in Ceylon, but it is safe to say that there will be found at least as much as has been planted there, and probably very much more, for the valleys appear to be one vast gigantic forest of the very finest description.

of its color, which gives to it a value, probably much greater as a fancy Coffee, suitable for certain foreign markets, than it would merely possess from its strength when roasted ; and it compares favorably, for appearance, with the products of European plantations in British India, Ceylon and Java. * * * It is large, well picked, and very clean-looking, smooth and even, and of bright deep bluish-green color, and worth in this market about 85s. per cwt. in bond."

Here then will arise an enormous source of profit, worthy the attention of capitalists.

With respect to the capabilities of East Africa, there cannot be any question of doubt.

Mr. LYONS McLEOD, F.R.G.S., Her Majesty's Consul at Mozambique (1856 to 1860), wrote and published in 1860:—

“The Kingdom of Kimweri” (father of the present King) “or Usambara, more generally known as the Pangany district, is rich in produce, which may be increased to supply any demand. The sugar cane is very luxuriant in its growth, and forests of magnificent timber await the woodman's axe, with the Pangany and its tributaries to carry it to the ocean.”

Dr. KRAPP, the well-known German missionary, visited Usambara in 1848, and again in 1849, and wrote of the forests:—

“This forest is worth millions of money for its fine long and straight timber, being useful for ship-building as for carpentering;” and further on—“We descended into a large forest of timber, sufficient for centuries to come. The trees are big and straight, from 70 to 100 feet in height.”

Archdeacon FARLER, whose letter of 2nd January, 1884, has been already referred to, read a very interesting account of Usambara to the Royal Geographical Society, on the 25th November, 1878, from which I make the following extracts, as tending to show the capability of the lands for the growth of tropical productions, and especially for coffee, tea, and cocoa:—

“Speaking roughly, it lies between 4° 20" and 5° 25" lat. S., and 38° 20" and 39° 10" long. E.

“The mountains form four detached lines running due north and south, rising in the higher peaks to about 6,000 feet above the sea-level. They are separated from each other by elevated valleys, table-lands and terraces. * * *

“The country is well watered; every mountain has its spring and every valley its streamlet.”

Descriptive of a fine valley situate between the range of mountains called Msesa and the Hendei range, respectively 2,900 feet and 4,000 feet above the sea, the Archdeacon writes:—

“We descended into the forest” (it is one vast unbroken forest), “which quite fulfilled my idea of a tropical climate. The trees were large, there was no jungle” (meaning underwood), “only an endless variety of splendid ferns. We were six hours crossing this valley, and the trees entirely kept out the sunlight. When the men were not talking there was a silence that became painful. The country is undulating, with now and then a great granite boulder covered with a growth of ferns. * * *

“When we consider the wondrous fertility of this country, together with its vicinity to the coast, the mountains being separated from the sea by a level plain of thirty miles, it is impossible to doubt that it has a great future before it.”

The late Mr. KEITH JOHNSTON made a short excursion into Usambara in February and March, 1879 (accompanied by Mr. Joseph Thomson), whose report on which was read at a Meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, held on 23rd June, 1879, from which I quote as follows:—

“Looking west and north-west from Msesa, the view extends over a wide basin, enclosing several minor ridges and valleys, to the long high range of Hendei, which bounds the horizon. All this area is so densely covered with dark tree tops, that not a spot of open ground is to be seen except on the very summits of one or two of the highest of the distant hills. North-east and south-west the prospect is closed in by mountains somewhat higher than this of Msesa * * * Our men complained bitterly of the cold, and kept up fires all night, though to us the night air was only refreshingly cool. * * *

“At daybreak on the 4th the valleys beneath us were still shrouded in mist, and this had not altogether cleared off when we began the descent into the dark forest on our way to Hendei an hour later. The whole of this day's march was through such dense forest that we scarcely saw the sun. The path wound through short underwood of shrubs of great variety * * * *

“Some of the trees we had passed in the ascent” (referring to the return journey by a more northerly route) “were giants of 8 to 10 feet in diameter above the converging point of the broad, flat, perpendicular buttresses which support their base; they rise often 60 to 70 feet clear without a branch, and their whole height is not less than 150 to 200 feet. The undergrowth is generally short, the ground often clear and strewn with a matting of dead leaves; the branches above interlace so closely as to exclude the sunlight, and produce a dim subdued light between the great pillar-like stems.

“Another steep climb of half-an-hour up a rough torrent bed brought us to the forest covered summit which is probably 4,500 feet above sea-level.

“This moon in the Magila district is that of the ‘Mona ya Mwaka’ the rain of the year, which precedes the three months of the ‘Masoka’ or rainy season that lasts till the end of May * * * The showers which come again from the north in November are also called ‘Mava ya maka’ and then there is a lesser planting time.”

Mr. JOSEPH THOMSON, describing the same journey, wrote:—

“It was indeed a marvellous forest; every tree a veritable giant, rising with bare trunk as if struggling for the free air of

heaven, to a height of 70 to 100 feet before branching;" and further on, when on the second day's march, and nearer to Hendei—"Through this we groped our way through a light sombre and gloomy. The grandeur and peculiar forms of the forest trees continually evoked our admiration, rising as they did from 100 to 200 feet in height, with trunks of proportional thickness."

Lieut. (now Commander) CAMERON, C.B., writes that cotton is cultivated almost everywhere, and grows wild in Ufipa. Archdeacon Farler specially mentions that it is indigenous in Usambara, and of good quality, though not cultivated.

Mr. LYONS McLEOD writes:—

"In the foregoing pages attention has been drawn to the capabilities which East Africa offers, on its coast line, for the production of the finest cotton, by the fact of its whole sea-board being washed by that great ocean current which subsequently, in its course on the east coast of America, obtains the name of the Gulf Stream. The wonderful effect which the heat contained in this great body of water has on the climate of England, and other more torridly-situate countries, is a fact too well-attested to be disputed. For my present purpose it will be simply necessary for me to state that the long and beautiful staple of the Sea Island cotton is produced by the warm yet humid atmosphere arising from the Gulf Stream, accompanied by the saline breezes on the islands and coast of America: and similarly that cotton of the Sea Island quality may be likewise produced on the east coast of Africa and the Islands of the Ethiopian Archipelago, bathed by this great oceanic current. In proof of which I would point to the cotton now grown on the Seychelles, and also to that produced on the coast line of the British colony of Natal."

India-rubber abounds in most of the forests, though as yet scarcely availed of, and gutta-percha is known to exist.

All these valuable products, and many others, await only the introduction of European skill, energy and capital, to bring in large and almost immediate returns.

AS REGARDS SECURITY FOR LIFE AND PROPERTY IN USAMBARA.

Dr. KRAPF, from whom I have already quoted, wrote in 1849:—

"Never have I travelled anywhere so comfortably as in Usambara; for here I am not tormented by the monster mendicancy, or at least it assumes a very modest form, whilst, as regards security, I do not believe that one could be safer in any European country than in Usambara, provided the country is not in a state of war."

But one established fact is worth a hundred arguments. Is it not patent to the world that the Missionaries of Magila, with their various outlying stations, have lived in Usambara for now seventeen years, in peace and perfect security, and Lieutenant Cameron writes, specially referring to the people of Africa, "wherever Missionaries prove that the white man can live and travel, there trade is certain to be established."

It is quite true, as is often said, that the Missionary is single-minded, and works only for the good of the people, but it is also true that a planting enterprise, started on the Mountains of Usambara, by giving profitable employment to thousands of its native inhabitants, would shower benefits upon them which they would not be slow to perceive and appreciate; but for the matter of that, the European element necessary to Plantations would soon, under proper restriction, be powerful enough to command respect, and insure perfect security both to life and property.

LABOUR.

It is not pretended that sufficient labour could be found at present in Usambara to carry out any considerable planting operations—nor was such found in Ceylon. There, Coolies came readily from India, marching even distances of 600 miles, often through unhealthy countries, to earn the rupee, and of the 380,000 men already mentioned as employed on the Plantations, probably not 500 are natives of the island. So will it be in Usambara. When demand arises, the enticing dollar will attract labour from far and near, even from the populous country of Usukuma, whose people Stanley found so friendly, and of whom he wrote, "If kindly treated, I do not know more docile and good-natured creatures." Usukuma is not more than 400 miles, as the crow flies, from what would probably be the *Coffee and Tea* growing districts of Usambara, and its people, even now, find their way to Zanzibar to earn wages as porters, the distance being, under any circumstances, not under 600 statute miles by the route which Stanley followed.

The importance of an abundant supply of labour from adjacent countries cannot be too highly rated. It is, I consider, one of the strong points in favour of Usambara, that it will be able to draw men from the neighbourhood of Victoria N'yanza, to any reasonable extent, without the intervention of expensive and difficult modes of transit. It is the want of such supply which over-weights and prevents progress in British Borneo and Sarawak. It deprives the planters of the Mauritius and the West Indian Islands of what would otherwise be handsome profits, and it is to the fact of the superabundant labour, always to be had for crop work, from adjacent India, that Ceylon, with its generally

poor soil, owes its wonderful rise and the continuance of its existence. Usambara is similarly well located, and when the day arrives for the opening of a railway through it to the great lake, there will be no other country to compare with it for the production of Coffee and Tea, both of which call for a sudden rush of labour at crop time.

HEALTH.

The low-land or plains between the base of the mountains and the sea coast is, no doubt, more or less unhealthy and hot, as it is in Ceylon and elsewhere in the same latitude. Archdeacon Farler, however, remarks that "many parts of it are most fertile—and I believe healthy, for I have frequently passed nights in it, sleeping in the open air, without experiencing any ill effects." At about 16 miles from the sea the country becomes undulating, with ridges rising 500 to 600 feet above sea-level, and of Umba, the chief town of the district, which is 600 feet above sea-level, Archdeacon Farler writes: "It is not at all unhealthy, for two European members of the Universities' Mission have lived there for two years without any serious illness or attacks of malarial fever." On the hills, at 2,000 feet above sea-level and upwards, the climate is all that a European could desire; even at Magila, which is only 790 feet above sea-level, the climate is good, and in the month of June, as Archdeacon Farler says, it is "delicious."

It may here be stated that, as a rule, land was not bought in Ceylon as a speculation, but for planting purposes, although, in a few isolated cases, sales were made at greatly increased prices. The enterprise, which has made Ceylon so prosperous, may be said to have been formed for the most part by young men of moderate means, who resorted to it as a means of employment, and of good investment for their comparatively small capital, there being a lack of both in this country; and if such was the case in 1840 to 1850, it will certainly apply much more to the present time, when the Bank of England rate of interest is 4 per cent., and thousands of young men are wasting the best years of their lives in offices in our cities on a mere pittance, without any hope of improvement.

Moreover, in the early days of Ceylon Planting, exchange ruled generally 4 to 8 per cent. against the Planter, now it may be called 20 per cent. in his favour. Freight, say £4 per ton against £1 10s. to £2 now. Length of voyage to this country was four to eight months, now one month to six weeks; and to crown all, little was known of the proper cultivation of Coffee, and the machinery for preparing it was of the rudest nature; now, by the skill and energy of the Ceylon Planter, both have arrived at a stage of perfection, which probably does not exist in any other country, and of all this the Usambara Planter can avail.

PART III.

PHILANTHROPY AND AMBITION.

MR. LYONS MCLEOD, whose work is referred to (Part II.) dedicated it in the following stirring words:—

“ To the Merchants and Members of Chambers of Commerce of Great Britain and Ireland, 1860.

“ Gentlemen:—Impressed with the conviction that, from the most remote time, civilization and Christianity have been best promoted by commerce, which binds rival nations in the bonds of peace, I respectfully dedicate this work to the mercantile portion of my countrymen, in the hope that, by their united efforts, slavery may be made to disappear from the continent of Africa, through the establishment of commercial relations, especially with that portion of its coast and the neighbouring Ethiopian Archipelago, including the fertile island of Madagascar described in the following pages.”

COMMANDER CAMERON wrote in 1877, descriptive of his journey to Lake Tanganika:—

“ Passing through the ruins of so many deserted villages once the homes of happy and contented people, was indescribably saddening. Where now are those who built them and cultivated the surrounding fields? Where? Driven off as slaves, massacred by villains engaged in a war in which these poor wretches had no interest, or dead of starvation or disease in the jungle.

“ Africa is bleeding out her life blood at every pore. A rich country, requiring only labour to render it one of the greatest producers in the world, is having its population, already far too scanty for its needs, daily depleted by the slave-trade and internecine war.

“ Should the present state of affairs be allowed to continue, the country will gradually relapse into jungles and wilds, and will become more and more impenetrable to the merchant and traveller.

“That this should be a possibility is a blot on the boasted civilization of the Nineteenth Century, and should England, with her mills working half-time, and with distress in the manufacturing districts, neglect the opportunity of opening a market which would give employment to thousands of the working classes, it will ever remain an inexplicable enigma. * * * * The question now before the civilised world is, whether the slave-trade in Africa, which causes at the lowest estimate an annual loss of 500,000 lives, is to be permitted to continue. Everyone worthy of the name of a man will say, ‘No!’ Let us then hope that England, which has hitherto occupied the proud position of being foremost amongst the friends of the unfortunate slave, may still hold her place. Let those who seek to employ money now lying idle join together to open the trade of Africa.”

At the important Jubilee Meeting, held at the Guildhall, on the 1st August, 1884, under the presidency of his Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Emancipation of the West Indian Slaves, the EARL OF GRANVILLE spoke as follows:—

“It has been said, and with great truth, that legitimate trade is the best antidote to the slave trade.”

Mr. FORSTER said:—

“There was another ground for hope, and there was more reason for feeling it now than for a long time past, that was, that they might destroy slavery at its very source, introduce trade into the very heart of Africa, make it no longer the interest of dealers to sell slaves, and to rally the men themselves to resist the slave dealers.”

The horrible scenes of which Dr. Livingstone was an eye-witness, following the line of march of slave caravans, cannot yet have been forgotten, but in order to prevent it being thought that such belong to a bygone time, and do not occur now, I will give something of more recent date:

Mr. JOS. THOMSON, a most accurate describer of what he had himself witnessed, wrote, 10th November, 1879:—

“Crossing the River Eise, our party commenced the ascent of the bordering precipices of the lake (Tanganika) * * * Half-way up the ascent a sad spectacle met our eyes—a chained gang of women and children. They were descending the rocks with the utmost difficulty, and picking their steps with great care, as, from the manner in which they were chained together, the fall of one meant not only the fall of many others, but probably actual strangulation or dislocation of the neck. The women, though thus chained with iron by the neck, were many of them carrying their children on their backs, besides very heavy loads

on their heads. Their faces and general appearance told of starvation and utmost hardship, and their naked bodies spoke with ghastly eloquence of the flesh-cutting lash. Their dull despairing gaze expressed the loss of all hope of either life or liberty, and they looked like a band marching to the grave * * *

“Saddest of all was that of a string of little children, torn from their home and playmates, wearily following the gang with bleeding, blistered feet, reduced to perfect skeletons by starvation, looking up with a piteous eye, as if beseeching us to kill them.”

And again :—

“Camped at Mtowa, we found a large caravan of ivory and slaves from Manyema, waiting, like ourselves, means of transport across Lake Tanganika. There were about 1,000 slaves, all in the most miserable condition, living on roots and grasses, and whatever refuse and garbage they could pick up. The sight of these poor creatures was of the most painful character. They were moving about like skeletons covered with parchment through which every bone in the body might be traced. * * * We learned that of 3,000 slaves who started from Manyema (a distance of not over 250 statute miles), only 1,000 reached Mtowa. The poor wretches were carrying ivory to Ujiji and Unyanyembe to be there disposed of along with themselves.”

And now for something still more recent, quoted from a letter by the Rev. Joseph Williams to the Rev. W. D. Lowndes, dated from Mtua, near Lindi, a seaport about 300 miles south of the Island of Zanzibar, the 2nd August, 1883 :—

“I hear that there is a large caravan with ivory and slaves to pass here to-morrow from Lake Nyassa. The trade certainly flourishes here in spite of the Sultan's proclamation. You cannot wonder that the Coast governors and soldiers are not very keen in carrying out its provisions. It would be against human nature, if they were.”

At a public meeting held in London on the 15th January last, the Rev. Mr. Johnstone, recently returned from Lake Nyassa, said (if I rightly understood him), that the chiefs would not be averse to abandon the slave trade, if they had other means of earning a living, their language being “You take from us our trade in slaves and we have no other,” from which it may be inferred that in the event of profitable work being open to them they would take to it and abandon the horrible traffic. Certain it is that nothing can tend more effectually to terminate the deportation of slaves than to raise an agricultural enterprise which will give healthy employment to hundreds of thousands of the natives such as I propose in Usambara. Let anyone picture to himself the fact of

300,000 or even 100,000 natives receiving regular employment, kindly treated, cared for when sick, properly housed, receiving instruction, regular wages, and in daily, almost hourly, contact with European managers and proprietors of the better class. The result must bring civilization to the employed; and as many of them would doubtless be natives attracted from the countries of Central Africa by good and regular wages, and returning periodically to visit their old homes, these would spread the glad news of a country where all these good things, and the many other advantages of civilization exist, **AND WITH CIVILIZATION SLAVERY IS DOOMED TO CEASE.**

Here, then, is a scheme where the Philanthropist will find ample scope for the exercise of his good and humane feelings, and on that ground alone it is confidently believed it will meet with hearty support.

To those who are ambitious of the honour due to the initiators of a very great and good work, this scheme offers special attractions.

A Company acquiring a sufficient extent of the waste lands of Usambara, and converting them by direct or indirect means into a vast Planting Industry, would soon, by the very force of the good done and the prosperity brought to the country, obtain such ascendancy that they would ere long be invited by the Chiefs and the people to assume Sovereignty. For such is in the order of things, and *that* Sovereignty would, in due time, and for the same reasons,* extend to the fine countries around Victoria N'yanza, ensuring to the peoples **PEACE, CIVILIZATION AND PROSPERITY.**

I will now endeavour to show that such is not an idle dream, but that it is perfectly practicable and has precedents to warrant it.

ARCHDEACON FARLER struck the key note of that, when, in his description of Usambara to the Royal Geographical Society, on 25th November, 1878, he read the following, viz.:—

“I have had several pressing invitations from the Chiefs to be their King; but I have been obliged to decline as it would require far more capital than I could command to organise a government. But with a government that would develop its resources it would quickly repay any money laid out upon it.”

COMMANDER CAMERON wrote in 1877:—

“I doubt whether there is a country in Central Africa where the people would not soon welcome and rally round a settled form of government. * * * The negroes always seem prone to collect round any place where they may be comparatively safe from the constant raids of their enemies, and thus the settlements of both East and West Coast traders frequently

become nuclei of considerable native populations. These people throwing off the yoke of their own rulers soon fall under *the sway of the strangers*, and in any scheme for forming stations in Central Africa, be they for missionary, scientific or trading purposes, the fact that those in charge would soon have to exercise magisterial powers must not be lost sight of."

The correctness of this statement has not been permitted to remain long a matter of doubt, as the following extract from an account of "The Operations of the Association Internationale Africaine" will show:—

"The station of Karima, established on a small elevation, which in 1879 was bathed by the waters of the lake (Tanganika), is now, in consequence of the fall in their level, 550 yards distant from them; proprietary rights over about 1000 hectares of land"—equal to about 2,500 acres—"are secured to the station by a formal contract. The European dwellings, constructed of bricks, rise in the middle of a group of buildings, stores, stables and sheds, covering a front of about 220 yards. The neighbouring plain is extraordinarily fertile, the chief tropical fruit-trees growing in abundance, also cotton-trees and palms. Experiments in cultivation have proved the possibility of acclimatising many of the European vegetables. The travellers of the Association have re-introduced sheep and cattle which had disappeared from the country, and their flocks and herds are thriving. A steam-launch carries the International flag on Lake Tanganika.

"Already the peaceful and civilising influence of the Belgian station makes itself felt around. Fights between the neighbouring tribes have become less frequent; *their Chiefs voluntarily seek the arbitration of the Europeans, and one of the principal sources of the slave trade tends to disappear, at all events at this point. The security of the natives has become greater, and this reacts on their social condition.* The population of Karima has increased by one-third, and the extent of cultivated land has doubled. A new village has risen up around the station itself, which now contains fifty dwellings, occupied by as many families. Clothes and tools have been distributed among those who were formerly but scantily covered by a strip of skin or bark.

"Under all circumstances *the natives show that they appreciate the advantage of having in the midst of them men whose presence protects them and elevates their condition.*

"*It is therefore proved by facts that a centre of civilization can be established, and can spread its light abroad, even in the heart of Africa.*"

The following data taken from an article by His Highness the Rajah of Sarawak, which appeared in the "Pall Mall Gazette," of 1st March, 1884, shows how the foundation of what

will some day be a great kingdom has been laid by *one* unaided man, with but small means at his command, and chaos and bloodshed changed to peace and security.

The late Rajah, Sir James Brooke, first anchored in the waters of Borneo in 1838, only 47 years ago, when, for services rendered, the Sultan bestowed on him the revolted province of Sarawak.

His entire fortune, including his yacht, was £30,000, all told, and yet, to use the words of his nephew, the present Rajah—

“From that small beginning he succeeded in building up a kingdom considerably larger than Scotland, in which at this moment the authority of the law is as supreme as in Hyde Park * * *

“Sarawak has recently been enlarged by the addition of a strip of coast line stretching 100 miles to the north. With this accession of territory the coast line of Sarawak is 330 miles in length, quite as far as from the Thames to the Tweed. The region under my authority extends over an area of 34,000 to 40,000 square miles.

“The population of Sarawak is its weakest point * * * it does not amount to more than 250,000 men, women, and children.”

The Rajah continues :—

“WHAT HAS BEEN DONE IN SARAWAK ?

“If any one who saw Sir J. Brooke drop anchor 47 years ago off the coast of Sarawak had been told that in the year 1884 the representative of that Englishman would be reigning with undisputed authority over the whole of the Principality of Sarawak, *maintaining peace* and enforcing the law, levying taxation, equipping forces, and exercising all the functions of Sovereignty, he would naturally have regarded the prophecy as ridiculously absurd. But what would have been his amazement if he had been informed that, not only would all those things be accomplished, but that the foreign government established with the unassisted resources of that solitary Englishman would have suppressed the most cherished institutions of the natives, *converted the head-hunting Dyaks*, for the most part, *into peaceable citizens*, suppressed *piracy*, *established schools*, and *CREATED a commerce valued at £1,000,000 annually*, and is about to *eradicate slavery* !

“Such, however, is a simple statement of an accomplished fact.”

A Magistrate of Sarawak, of 23 years' standing, writes to the “Pall Mall Gazette,” in continuation of the article by the Rajah above quoted :—“That the present total revenue of Sarawak is £50,000 a-year, having been created from nothing in 1838 to that

amount in 1883 ; and that the surplus of the previous year was £5,000, all of which has been accomplished by the courage and far-seeing wisdom of one brave and philanthropic man" * * * But, continues the magistrate:—"The one feature of the government of Sarawak, which stands out more prominently than any other, is that it is a government by consent, not a government by force."

"Rajah Brooke rules in Sarawak over a large native population, without any extraneous assistance or any material means by which he could enforce his authority upon unwilling subjects. His whole European staff never exceeds thirty, and it is now little more than twenty. He has no standing army, and his means of repression are absolutely nil, except so far as they are supplied by the free will of his subjects. The first essential to any attempt to follow the Sarawak precedent elsewhere is that the ruler must govern with the consent of the governed." * * * "Our whole system is very simple, being based upon kindness, firmness, and common sense."

But Sarawak has unfortunately but a very scant population and has no contiguous thickly-peopled country to fall back on for labour, and the question presents itself—if under such circumstances so great a result has been obtained there with so small an outlay, what may not be achieved in Usambara with a vast population within call, and a people evidently disposed to come under a civilized and settled form of government?

To go back nearly 300 years for another great example to hold out before the philanthropist and man of ambition, Bruce writes in his "Annals of the Honourable East India Company":—

"Whether it was from the information collected from these various voyages to the East Indies, from the example of the associations, which have been specified as having received the protection of the Crown, or from the Dutch at this juncture forming associations for a trade to the East Indies, it is impossible to decide ; but it is probable that the whole of the circumstances had the effect in 1599, to bring forward an association of merchant adventurers, citizens of London, to embark what was then considered a large stock on a voyage to the East Indies. The contract of these adventurers is valuable from its being the first authentic deed which occurs in the annals of our East India trade."

It is entitled:—

"The names of such persons as have written with their owne handes, to venter in the pretended voiage to the East Indies (the whiche it maie please the Lorde to prosper), and the somes that they will adventure : the xxij Sept. 1599."

“The fund subscribed amounted to £30,133 6s. 8d., which was divided into one hundred and one shares or adventures, the subscriptions of individuals varying from £100 to £3,000.”

From that small star in the East, has arisen, through the spirit and energy of a trading company, our great Indian Empire, with its glorious history—one uninterrupted record of good.

Who shall affix a limit now to the power and means of benefitting the human race, which may ere long await a private company, having for its foundation a planting enterprise on the mountains of Usambara?

Stanley, that greatest of African explorers, gives a glowing description of Central Africa generally, and of its capabilities, and in particular of the countries bordering on Victoria N'yanza, the products of which may be summed up by the one word, “everything,” and to any extent, when a market shall be opened for them. Notably he enumerates, ivory, coffee, gums, resins, myrrh, skins of great variety, ox-hides, fine cattle, sheep and goats, and teak and other fine timber in abundance, and of great size, all ready to be exchanged for the manufactures of Europe. Indigo grows wild, and no doubt the indigo of commerce could be introduced and grown with success. The same may be said of silk (the mulberry tree was found, by Mr. Lyons M'Leod, growing wild at Mozambique), and grain of every description is grown.

Stanley enthusiastically exclaims:—

“What a land they possess! and what an inland sea! How steamers afloat on the lake might cause Ururi to shake hands with Uzongora, and Uganda with Usukuma, make the wild Wavuma friends with the Wazinja, and unite the Wakorwé with the Wagana! A great trading port might then spring up on the Slimuya” (a river which enters the lake at its south-east extremity, known as Speke Gulf) “whence the coffee of Uzongora” (on the west coast of the lake about 1° south latitude), “the ivory, sheep and goats of Ugeyeya, Usuga, Uvuma, and Uganda, the cattle of Uwya, Karagwé, Usagara, Thangira, and Usukuma, the myrrh, cassia, and furs and hides of Uganda and Uddu, the rice of Ukerewé, and the grain of Uzinza, might be exchanged for the fabrics brought from the coast; all the land be redeemed from wildness, the industry and energy of the natives stimulated, the havoc of slave-trade stopped, and all the countries round about permeated with the nobler ethics of humanity. But at present the hands of the people are lifted—murder in their hearts—one against the other; ferocity is kindled at sight of the wayfarer; piracy is the acknowledged profession of the Wavunia; the people of Ugeyeya and Wasoga go stark naked” (also might have

been included the men of Usukuma); "Mtesa" (since dead) "impales, burns, and maims his victims; the Wirigedi lie in wait along their shores for strangers, and the slingers of the islands practice their art against him; the Wakara poison anew their deadly arrows at sight of a canoe; and each tribe, with rage and hatred in its heart, remains aloof from the other.

" 'Verily the dark places of the earth are full of cruelty.'

" Oh for the hour when a band of philanthropic capitalists shall vow to rescue these beautiful lands, and supply the means to enable the Gospel messengers to come and quench the murderous hate with which man beholds man in the beautiful lands around Lake Victoria. * * * "

This grand picture, so foreshadowed by Stanley, will be realised the day Lake Victoria shall become connected with Tanga Harbour by a Railway, but not till then; and with a considerable European settlement established on the Usambara mountains as a base to work from, the construction of such a railway will be neither so difficult nor so expensive as may be, at first sight, supposed.

Of the great plateau situate between the mountains and the Lake, Archdeacon Farler obtained valuable information from native traders who have repeatedly crossed it, which was published by the Royal Geographical Society in December, 1882, and although the distances and positions of stations along the several routes described to him may not be very accurate, there can be no hesitation in accepting their general description of the nature of the country and the people as fairly correct, and it tends to prove the practicability of an easy line in that direction, with food plentiful and water everywhere. The recent explorations by Mr. Johnston, and by that great traveller, Mr. Jos. Thomson, have, however, added much to our knowledge, and have brought to light the existence of a great country suitable for Europeans, and of peoples desirous to trade with and receive them on friendly terms.

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